



FIRST THINGS FIRST

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Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

A Regular Meeting of the First Things First Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council took place on November 15, 2013 at the First Things First Tucson Regional Office, 3610 N. Prince Village Pl., Suite 100, Tucson, Arizona, 85719. Chair Louis Johnson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

Members Present:

Cheryl Conde, Janine Prewitt

Members Present Telephonically:

Chair Louis Johnson, Vice Chair Mildred Manuel, Joseph Mease, Dionne Ramon, Dr. Albert Adler (from 11:59 a.m.)

Members Absent:

Ella Begay, Ben Standifer, Kymberlii Tenario

Invocation

Regional Director Travis LeDuc provided the invocation.

Approval of September 27, 2013 Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by member Mease that the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council approve the minutes of the September 27, 2013 Regional Council meeting as presented, seconded by member Prewitt. Motion carried.

Call to the Public

Kit McIlroy, Tohono O'odham Community College: Mr. McIlroy provided the regional council with an update on recent happenings and upcoming programs within the Community of Practice at Tohono O'odham Community College. He thanked the council for their efforts.

Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council Grant Agreement GRA-RC026-14-0679-01 Expansion, Start-Up and/or Capital Expense with the B.U.S.D.

Chair Johnson turned the floor over to Mr. LeDuc who explained that neither of the grant agreements on the agenda was returned and therefore no action would be taken on them at this time. He also let the regional council know that they should anticipate revisiting them at the January meeting.

Much discussion was had about the difficulties the regional council faces expending the dollars they allocate to various grantees. Several members asked Mr. LeDuc to explain why there tends to be so much trouble and why the process of funding programs takes so long. Mr. LeDuc went over the main roadblocks that the council typically encounters, including lack of qualified professionals working in early childhood programs, lack of space/locations, and the difficulties in logistics of travel. He reminded the regional council that there has already been significant improvement in some of these areas, particularly the issue of the number of qualified professionals, which is due to their efforts. He also explained that the problems they are facing are not unique to the Tohono O'odham Nation when looking at the relationship of First Things First with all the tribal communities, and that the beauty of First Things First is that the funds still stay within the Nation regardless of whether or not they are expended each year.

Mr. LeDuc was also asked how the delay in the grant agreements will affect the programs, and whether or not the programs will have access to the entire amount in the agreement if they are approved later on. Mr. LeDuc redirected these questions to Russell Spencer, Director of Fiscal Operations for First Things First. Mr. Spencer let the regional council know that it would be up to the regional council and Mr. LeDuc to decide whether they wanted to fund the full amount or a prorated amount.

Tohono O’odham Nation Regional Partnership Council Grant Agreement GRA-RC026-14-0674-01 Quality First Child Care Scholarships with the Tohono O’odham Nation

No action was taken on this agenda item per discussion during previous agenda item.

SFY 2015 Tohono O’odham Nation Regional Partnership Council Funding Plan

Chair Johnson turned the floor over to Mr. LeDuc who reviewed the strategies for the Fiscal Year 2015 Tohono O’odham Nation Regional Partnership Council Funding Plan. He provided an explanation of each strategy and clarification as needed.

Vice Chair Manuel declared a conflict of interest with the Parent Outreach and Awareness strategy and the Community Based Training Parent Education strategy, due to the fact that they directly affect the program she works for. She recused herself from voting on those strategies.

Member Prewitt motioned to approve the Quality First Strategy package for 8 centers and 1 home, with estimated funding allotments as presented in the SFY 2015 Funding Plan summary. The Quality First package includes the following strategies for enrolled providers: Quality First Academy; Warmline Triage and the Warmlines for Child Care Health Consultation, Inclusion, Mental Health Consultation; Quality First Coaching and Incentives. Further, the Quality First package excludes Quality First Child Care Scholarships and has an estimated budget allotment of \$145,693. And finally, the Quality First package includes Child Care Health Consultation for a budget allotment of \$22,571. The estimated amounts included in this motion will be updated and finalized according to the Quality First model and the Quality Ratings of the enrolled sites and brought back to the Regional Council at a future meeting. The motion was seconded by member Mease and carried by roll call vote.

Member Prewitt motioned to allot \$353,622 in Fiscal Year 2015 for Quality First Scholarships supporting at least 56 children at an of the 8 centers or 1 home based provider enrolled in Quality First serving the Tohono O’odham Nation. The motion was seconded by member Mease and carried by roll call vote.

Member Prewitt motioned to allot \$40,000 in Fiscal Year 2015 in support of expanding early care and education services to 10 additional children. The motion was seconded by member Mease and carried by roll call vote.

***Member Adler joined the meeting at 11:59 a.m. and began voting at this point.*

Member Prewitt motioned to allot \$100,000 in Fiscal Year 2015 in support of 40 professionals in Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education. The motion was seconded by member Mease and carried by roll call vote.

Member Prewitt motioned to allot \$292,690 in Fiscal Year 2015 in support of Parent Outreach and Awareness for 60 families. Member Manuel abstained due to conflict of interest. The motion was seconded by member Albert Adler and carried by roll call vote.

Member Prewitt motioned to allot \$70,000 in Fiscal Year 2015 in support of Community Based Training Parent Education for 20 parents. Member Manuel abstained due to conflict of interest. The motion was seconded by member Adler and carried by roll call vote.

Member Cheryl Conde motioned to allot \$5,000 in Fiscal Year 2015 in support of the Community Awareness portion of the First Things First communications plan. The motion was seconded by member Prewitt and carried by roll call vote.

Member Conde motioned to allot \$80,000 in Fiscal Year 2015 in support of the Community Outreach portion of the First Things First communications plan. The motion was seconded by member Mease and carried by roll call vote.

Member Conde motioned to allot \$5,000 in Fiscal Year 2015 in support of the Media portion of the First Things First communications plan. The motion was seconded by member Adler and carried by roll call vote.

Member Mease motioned to allot \$34,768 in Fiscal Year 2015 in support of the First Things First Statewide Evaluation. The motion was seconded by member Conde and carried by roll call vote. Member Adler abstained from voting.

Next Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council Meeting Time and Location

Regional Director LeDuc notified the council that a December meeting would only be held if there was any change to either of the grant agreements. The council agreed to hold the date of December 14, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. for the next meeting, and that it would take place at the First Things First Tucson Regional Office, with the majority of regional council members participating telephonically.

Some discussion was had about the need for a designated day of the month and time for regional council meetings. The council decided to plan on holding meetings on the second Saturday of each month, at locations to be determined. They tentatively designated a meeting on January 11, 2014 to take place in Pisinemo, Arizona; and a meeting on February 8, 2014 to take place at the Head Start office in Vaya Chin, Arizona.

General Discussion

Member Conde announced that Division of Early Childhood Development, along with Tohono O'odham Utility Authority and hopefully Desert Diamond Casino, will be hosting a "Winter Night Extravaganza" on Friday, December 6th at the Sells Recreation Center.

Call to the Public

Connie Ross, Baboquivari Unified School District: Ms. Ross provided some comments addressing the unsigned grant agreement discussed earlier in the meeting. Mr. LeDuc explained that the Call to the Public was not an appropriate platform on which to discuss the matter, and that he would provide the regional council with more information based on Ms. Ross's comments at a later time.

Aggie Hart, First Things First Community Outreach Coordinator: Ms. Hart provided the regional council with an update on her recent and upcoming community outreach efforts.

Adjourn

As there was no further business, Chair Louis Johnson adjourned the meeting at 12:42 p.m.

Submitted By _____
Emily McDuffie, Administrative Assistant

Approved By _____
Louis Johnson, Chair

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20____.